

FALL 2026 NOVAK LEADERSHIP COURSES

LEAD / JOURN 4242 / 7242 W – Strategic Communication Leadership – Writing Intensive (3 credit)

In this course, students learn practical strategies for effectively leading self and others in the pursuit of meaningful goals. The course offers a people-centered approach to leadership that emphasizes the role of effective communication and collaboration. Students progress from leading self (self-awareness, goal setting, emotional intelligence) to leading others (adaptive leadership, communication styles, psychological safety, trust-building, recognition). Working in Leadership Development Teams, students discuss readings and concepts, practice leadership behaviors in their current contexts, and reflect on their development. For a final project, students research and deliver a narrative-driven TED-style presentation connecting personal experience to leadership principles. *Course satisfies curricular WI requirement.*

Instructors: Brandon Butcher, M.A., Bryan Chester, Med; Catey Terry, M.A.

3 credit hours. Class meets in-person. Multiple sections available.

Sections: T/R 3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. or T/R 11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

LEAD / JOURN 4244 / 7244 W – Organizational Culture & Leadership – Writing Intensive (3 credit)

In this course, students study effective approaches for leading in organizations and teams and developing positive workplace culture. Through lectures, group discussions, case studies, and experiential learning activities, students gain a framework for assessing culture within organizations and examine the role leaders play in shaping culture. The course culminates in a hands-on ethnography research project involving observation and interviews inside the walls of a real-world local business or organization. *Course is writing intensive and satisfies curricular WI requirement.*

Instructor: Eleanor Farnen, M.A.

3 credit hours. Class meets in-person.

T/R 11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

JOURN 4268 – Strategic Communication Practicum – Coaching Yourself – Sec. 02 (3 credit)

In this course, students learn strategies and practices for leading themselves to consistently perform at their best in work and life. This course shares proven principles used by the world's most successful leaders to achieve higher levels of professional and personal success. Students learn how to adopt a self-coaching mindset, develop an individual plan for growth, and take action to establish productive habits. Interactive weekly exercises help students develop self-awareness, define personal values and vision, identify sources of motivation, build confidence, network, and sustain higher levels of individual and group performance.

Instructor: Brandon Butcher, M.A.

3 credit hours. Class meets in-person.

T/R 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.